

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
FRB-03 LAB-04 PA-01 ITC-01 PRS-01 FEA-01 AF-10
ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 FTC-01 /163 W
-----078535 242356Z /70

R 241737Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5535
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USOECD
USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EIND, UK, US
SUBJECT: ANTITRUST: URANIUM CARTEL, CRUDE OIL MARKET
AND CREDIT CARDS

1. URANIUM CARTEL. THE SUBJECT OF THE URANIUM PRODUCERS CARTEL AND THE RELATED ISSUES OF U.S. ANTITRUST POLICY AND EXTRATERRITORIALITY HAVE ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION IN THE UK DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS. THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING THAT IS STRIKINGLY NEW TO REPORT, BUT FOR BACKGROUND PURPOSES EMBASSY IS POUCHING A NUMBER OF ARTICLES TO EB/IFD/BP.

2. CRUDE OIL MARKET. EMBASSY NOTES THAT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS ANNOUNCED AN INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE ANTI-COMPETITIVE PRACTICES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CRUDE
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OIL MARKET AND THE INTENTION TO COLLECT CERTAIN DATA FROM MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES. WE ASSUME THIS INVESTIGATION WILL INCLUDE BP. REQUEST GUIDANCE ON WHETHER EMBASSY SHOULD OFFICIALLY NOTIFY UK GOVERNMENT AND ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR USE IN BRIEFING AND DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS.

3. CREDIT CARD INVESTIGATION. THE UK OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING HAS REFERRED THE ISSUE OF CREDIT CARDS TO THE MONOPOLIES AND MERGERS COMMISSION TO DETERMINE WHETHER MAJOR CREDIT CARD OPERATORS ARE USING THEIR DOMINANCE OF THE MARKET TO DICTATE TERMS OF TRADE WHICH ARE AGAINST THE PUBLIC INTEREST. SPECIFICALLY, THE ISSUE APPEARS TO BE WHETHER RETAILERS WHO PAY COMMISSIONS ARE SUBSIDIZING THE PERIODS OF INTEREST-FREE CREDIT WHICH ARE GIVEN TO CARD HOLDERS AND WHETHER PRICES ARE INCREASED AS A RESULT OF RETAILERS THEN RECOVERING THE EXTRA COST OF COMMISSIONS. THE CREDIT CARD COMPANIES LISTED INCLUDE THE LARGE UK FIRMS AS WELL AS AMERICAN EXPRESS AND DINERS CLUB. THERE IS SOME QUESTION WHETHER CARTE BLANCHE IS ALSO INVOLVED.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, OILS, MARKETS, CREDIT, ANTITRUST, POLICIES, CARTELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON10553
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770227-0470
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770620/aaaaarei.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ec4e0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2038635
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTITRUST: URANIUM CARTEL, CRUDE OIL MARKET AND CREDIT CARDS
TAGS: ETRD, EIND, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ec4e0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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